

WILD GOOSE TALES

1ST QUARTER 2013



Friends of the Willamette Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Complex



Western Meadowlark at Baskett Slough NWR photographed by Jim Leonard

President's Column



By, Doug Spencer

Now that we have weathered the winter months and are looking forward to spring, we can take a moment and spend some quality time visiting our national wildlife refuges to view and listen to the migrating birds as they venture north to breed. Spring is always a wonderful time of the year. It is a time to reflect on why we have these refuges and how important the wildlife is to us. It is also a time to get outdoors and enjoy the warmer and drier days.

During the winter months, the Board has been busy planning three events for this spring. The first is for Earth Day, which is being held at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton on April 20, from 10am – 4pm. The second event is an “Open House” at the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge south of Corvallis, which is planned for May 11. This event is from 10am - 3pm and we plan to have hundreds of visitors out for it. We are always looking for volunteers to help us out at these events by assisting with activities and providing information to the public about our refuges. Lastly, the Friends are hosting a point and shoot photographer workshop, tentatively planned to be held at the Albany Library, the evening of June 4. Please contact the

Friends if you can help out during any of these events.

We continue to look for new Board and Committee members, including a new Board treasurer, to help us reach our mission and goals. If you aren't a member, I encourage you to join this support organization for our refuges in the Willamette Valley. If you are a member, I encourage you to get involved with our Committees. It doesn't take much of your time to help out and your efforts will be rewarded by seeing our refuges flourish. If anyone is interested in being on the Board or a Committee, please contact a Friends Board member and we will be happy to assist you.

I hope you enjoy Wild Goose Tales and welcome you to our organization.

FRIENDS' MISSION

The Friends of the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to:

- *Promote the conservation of the natural resources of the Refuge Complex*
- *Foster awareness and appreciation of the Complex through educational and recreational opportunities*
- *Participate in activities that help the Complex achieve its goals.*



BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT:

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SECRETARY:

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TREASURER:

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USFWS LIAISON:

SALLIE GENTRY

Friends of the Willamette Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Complex*Project Leader's Column***By, Damien Miller**

The Willamette Valley Refuge Complex went through a great deal of personnel changes last year and is experiencing additional changes in 2013. While we have one less staff member due to the resignation of our Law Enforcement Officer, we also have one new face, Laila Liensch, who recently accepted the Deputy Project Leader position. Laila hails from our FWS Regional Office in Albuquerque New Mexico where she's been working collaboratively with many companies, agencies and NGO partners to incorporate

species conservation measures into energy development projects across a broad area in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. She is a recent graduate of the FWS's Advanced Leadership Development Program and has been looking forward to this opportunity to work in the great Northwest as a Refuge Manager. Please join me in giving her a warm welcome, we are very fortunate to have her join our collaborative conservation efforts!

Although at the time of my writing this note, I'm not exactly sure where we stand in regards to our total annual budget, I am pleased to report one piece of really good news! Refuge and Partners program staff worked closely with our Ecological Services office, Fisheries office and Regional Office staff to successfully compete for a National

Cross Program Recovery Initiative grant. We recently received confirmation that our proposal was the top ranked proposal in the nation. We will receive about \$650,000 this year to put directly towards a long list of conservation projects for the recovery of listed species on and around the Refuges!

I can't tell you how proud I am of all the staff here, and also the Friends group and volunteers! We've all pulled through some tough challenges together in the past year and have come out strong. We've met or exceeded our conservation goals; sought and received new grant money for monitoring and species recovery; and put together an aggressive work plan for 2013. I appreciate your support of the Refuges and look forward to seeing you around the office, or preferably, out on one of the trails!

Refuge Staff Profile: Sharon Selvaggio

Maybe it was the Girl Scout camping trips that did it. Or maybe (being by nature a book-worm) it was the long afternoons of my childhood perched in my willow tree deep into my library book. So, despite having been raised in the big city – Chicago, Illinois – I got hooked on nature. As a college student I used to joke with people that I loved biology because it was the only subject at the university where you got to talk about food and sex all day.

I earned my bachelor's in Biology from UC Berkeley and started out working for the Forest Service in the late 80s. I had the best job in the world – running through the woods locating



Sharon on a hike at Baskett Slough NWR, photo by Ricardo Small

spotted owls and their nests and young. To this day my favorite places in the world are the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. Being there in the height of the timber extraction years fueled my desire to look more deeply at the policy, eco-

nomics and technology of resource management so I went back to Berkeley to get an M.S. in Energy and Resources.

I returned to the USFS as a district biologist, stayed for 7 years,

Continued on page 5...

Friends Feature: Finley Open House 2013

Saturday, May 11, 2013, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, the Friends Organization in concert with the staff of the Willamette Valley Refuge Complex will be sponsoring an Open House event at the William L. Finley Refuge, 9 miles south of Corvallis. This event will merge the Open Houses of the past with our annual Barns and Bluegrass event held in May. It will include many family friendly activities that were part of both events in the past.

Here is just a sample of what you can experience at the Open House!

Tour and explore the historic Refuge barns and Fiechter House, which will be manned by knowledgeable staff and volunteers, and learn more about the lives of our pioneer ancestors!

Pick up your Passport to Refuge Discovery at the three Refuge entrances (Hwy 99, Bell-fountain, Bruce Rd).

Receive a stamp from each of station while enjoying activities that explore many different aspects of refuge management and

nature discovery!

Complete your passport and receive a memento from your day at the Refuge!

Join a naturalist for an afternoon native plant walk and tour of Woodpecker Loop at 2:00 pm sponsored by the local Natural Areas Celebration Program and a morning bird walk sponsored by the Corvallis Audubon Society at 8:00 am.

Enjoy your picnic lunch to the tune of local musicians on the lawns near historic Fiechter House.

Win door prizes raffled off on the Fiechter House lawn at 2:00 pm.

Snack on refreshments available at the Main Office Building throughout the day.

Browse the Wild Goose Nature Store and take advantage of the special bargains and discounts available.

Individual events are subject to change. Watch your local paper for details.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in staffing stations, the refreshment booth,

parking supervision, and more.

Please contact the Friends' President, Doug Spencer at (541-917-8928) or email at

doug_spencer@q.com.

"THIS EVENT WILL MERGE THE OPEN HOUSES OF THE PAST WITH OUR ANNUAL BARNs AND BLUEGRASS EVENT HELD IN MAY. "



Killdeer photographed by Jim Leonard on Baskett Slough NWR

Board Updates

The Friends Board is proud to introduce our three new members to all of you! Please welcome Carla Berrey, Melanie Garrett and Brian Wachelka! We are very excited to have all of them serving on the Board.

Also, Friends President Doug Spencer has been a busy busy bee this year, working to submit grant applications to fund important programs and projects around the refuges. Here is just a sample of the work he has done:

- "Community Enhancement and Outdoor Youth Exposure" grant application for a \$2,000 Every Day Event Grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation. If we receive this grant, we plan to participate in 3 outdoor youth events within our local communities.
- A Capacity Building Grant application for \$3,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This grant will provide the Friends a professional table top display, upgrade our website so the Friends can receive membership funding online and sell Wild Goose Nature Store items online as well. The grant will also provide for a self standing vertical Friends banner.
- A third grant application will be submitted in April for \$5,000 with the National Environmental Education Foundation for a Capacity Building grant. This grant will enable the Friends to purchase field guides specifically designed for the Willamette Valley Refuges and help fund for a Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex 50th anniversary event for next year.



Thank you Sallie!

There were some sad faces at the March Friends Board meeting, but it was nothing to do with tough decisions on the agenda. This month was our USFWS liaison and Visitor Services Manager, Sallie Gentry's, last Board meeting. Sallie has accepted a promotion to the Atlanta Regional Office's visitor services and volunteer coordination program. We want to take a moment to wish her well in her new position (where she will be overseeing other Friends organizations and visitor services programs) and thank her for all the amazing work she has done here at the WVNWRC. Sallie has been a tremendous asset to the Complex and the Region and we are really going to miss her here! Sallie's last day on the refuge will be April 9th. Thanks Sallie for all you've done and best wishes to you in your future endeavors!



Celebrating Sallie's last WVNWRC Friend's Board meeting on March 12th with plenty of Oregon-made goodies!



This Black Phoebe, here photographed at Finley NWR by Jim Leonard, was a resident of sorts this winter at Finley Refuge. It was often seen perched on logs or swooping over the pond right behind the Refuge headquarters. Staff and visitors alike enjoyed watching and photographing the little bird!

Intern Profile: Katrina Maggiulli

Born and raised in Corvallis, Oregon, I have visited all of the Willamette Valley refuges since I was young, so having the opportunity to come to Finley everyday for work is like a dream come true! I am a recent Oregon State graduate in English and Writing, and I am using my opportunities here at Finley to expand my knowledge of the Fish and Wildlife system as well as interpretive education. My academic interests include environmental education, conservation ethics and the folklore of ecology; all of which I hope to pursue and integrate into an interdisciplinary graduate degree.

Some of my hobbies include writing, cycling, gardening, music and bird watching. I

spend quite a bit of my time on my family farm north of Corvallis caring for our herd of dairy goats and enjoying the proximity to the McDonald-Dunn forest. I also love hiking and exploring with my Australian Kelpie, Žižek (named for Slovene philosopher and cultural critic Slavoj Žižek). We particularly enjoy the Fitton Green Natural Area, so keep a lookout for us on the trail!

So far at Finley I have enjoyed working with the refuge staff and Friends members; visiting local schools; and bird watching at every opportunity!

I work the Wild Goose Nature Store on Fridays so drop in and say hello!



Katrina at one of her Willamette Valley haunts: McDowell Creek County Park

Resident Volunteer: Joe Copeland

Joe Copeland is currently serving as the Willamette Refuge Complex's resident volunteer. He joined us in December of last year and will be working with us through the end of May this year. He is providing a variety of services for the Refuge including light grounds and trail maintenance, brochure replenishment,

staffing the Wild Goose Nature Store, and natural resource interpretive tasks.

Prior to accepting this volunteer position at Finley, Joe most recently volunteered as a campground host, visitor center assistant, and interpretive assistant with the National Park Service in the Hoh Rain Forest located in the Olympic National Park in Washington State. In the past, Joe has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity building low income housing and for several other charity organizations. Joe was born and raised in Panama City, Florida, has a career background in Information Technology and likes to backpack, hike and bird watch in his spare time.



Joe enjoying winter weather at Finley NWR

WILLAMETTE VALLEY NWRC FIRE MANAGEMENT Winter Update 2013

With the wet and rainy weather during the winter/spring months in the Willamette Valley, fire is probably the last thing on your mind. Fire management staff at the Refuge utilize this time of year for planning, training and preparation for the upcoming fire season. Fire fighters attend mandatory trainings, update fire dispatch and prescribed fire burn plans, and repair and maintain their equipment. Many of these pre-season preparation activities are designed so that when fire season comes, the fire fighters and their equipment are ready and prepared for whatever situation they may face.

As the rainy spring months melt into warm sunny days, Refuge fire management staff will be ready and prepared for both wildfires as well as habitat burning planned for late summer/early fall.

— Fire Management Officer Greg Hagedorn



Prescribed fire is used to help contain invasive species and restore native



Horned Lark at Baskett Slough NWR, photographed by Jim Leonard

Sharon Selvaggio... continued from page 2

and then moved to the USFWS. I worked for many years all around Oregon and Washington assisting different refuges in developing 15-year management plans (CCPs). Now I'm a refuge manager at Baskett Slough, my dream location. There are the headaches, toils, and frustrations as in any job but nothing can replace the quiet joy I feel when hearing the melodic tones of a meadowlark, happening upon just-fledged great horned owls

in the mixed forest, or exploring the beauty and diversity of our wetlands with their myriad plants and water-birds. I look forward to serving in this role as a steward of these beautiful refuges. Please feel free to call or visit at any time.



"AFTER SOME EARLY MISGIVINGS (AND A COUPLE OF "YUCK" MOMENTS), ALL THE PARTICIPANTS RELAXED AND WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PROCESS"

Past Event: Bird Study Skins Workshop

A unique and educational activity came to the Refuge this February. The Bird Study Skins workshop was led by Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) employee, OSU faculty and Friends member Stacy Moore. This workshop was also made possible through a supporting donation given by the Friends, as

well as the efforts of Friends vice-president Tom Nelson and Refuge biologist Molly Monroe. This small workshop drew a diverse group of participants including 7 Oregon State students, IAE staff, Friends members (including our president and vice), Corvallis Audubon members and even some Refuge staff! Study skins are a form of taxidermy meant for educational purposes. The birds are not posed, like most taxidermy animals you see, they are preserved on sticks so they can be examined closely for research study and education. The skins made in the workshop will stay on refuge for future educational opportunities. This is an exciting development for the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex environmental education programs as, in the past, the refuge had to procure study skins on loan from other organizations (like the Corvallis Audu-

bon). Workshop participants had the opportunity to work with a wide variety of bird species that were either collected by biologists on refuge, or donated by various individuals in the community. These species included wood duck, barn owl, pileated woodpecker, Cooper's hawk, varied thrush and Virginia rail. After some early misgivings (and a couple of "yuck" moments), all the participants relaxed and were enthusiastic about the process. Plans are currently in the works for future study skins workshops so participants can hone their skills (so stay tuned!). Collaborations like these are great for our local community, bringing together individuals from all over the Willamette Valley to learn something new about nature. Remember: opportunities like these are only made possible through *your* generous donations and participation in the Friends organization! Thank you!



Far Above: Refuge Biologist Molly Monroe aids Administrative Officer, Norma Ragland, with her varied thrush. **Above:** Some of the completed skins. **Right:** The workshop leader, Stacy Moore, helps Friends President Doug Spencer make just the right cut on his wood duck.



Calendar of Events

April 6th—Flying Wild Workshop at Finley NWR, 9am-3pm

The Flying Wild workshop is an opportunity for teachers to earn continuing education credits, and for volunteers to learn more about teaching youth about birds and nature.

April 20th—Earth Day Event at the Oregon Gardens, 10am-4pm

From composting demonstrations, to recycled crafts to tree-planting, there will be fun for the whole family at the annual Earth Day celebration at the Oregon Gardens. Finley and Friends will be there with a craft and touch-table activities!

April 22nd—Earth Day

Inspired by the damage of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, the first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970 to honor and increase awareness of Earth's natural environments.

May 4th-May 12th—Natural Areas Celebration Week

Enjoy the fourth annual celebration week put on by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition to raise awareness for our incredible natural resources! Free public activities will be held all week, from tree identification tours, to birding workshops. See the website for more details: <http://sustainablecorvallis.org/action-teams/natural-areas/natural-areas-celebration-week/>

May 11th—William L. Finley Refuge Open House, 10am-3pm; International Migratory Bird Day

The Finley Refuge Open House, this year combined with the annual Barns & Bluegrass event, will provide fun for everyone! International Migratory Bird Day will focus on bird life cycles this year, raising awareness of the importance of stop-over sites as well as nesting and wintering areas.

June 15th—Youth Outdoor Day at E.E. Wilson Wilderness Management Area

Youth Outdoor Day offers a variety of hands-on activities designed to get children thinking and learning about wild-life conservation, hunting, fishing and wilderness survival. This is a registration-only event starting online April 28th for first time participants and May 5th for returning children.

August 21st—Wild Goose Nature Store 4th Anniversary

Come down to the Wild Goose Nature Store at the William L. Finley Refuge Office to celebrate the 4th anniversary of its opening with refreshments, discounts and deals galore! The store is open from 10 am to 4 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Volunteer Opportunities

EARTH DAY AT THE OREGON GARDENS

April 20th, 10am - 4pm

Volunteers are needed to help run pollination crafts, touch-table activities and inform the public about opportunities at our beautiful refuges!

For more information contact the Refuge at 541-757-7236



HELP WANTED

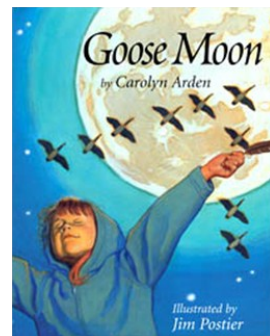
The Board of Directors needs someone to serve on the Board in the capacity of Treasurer. The Board currently meets bi-monthly and a time commitment of approximately 4 hours weekly would be required. Contact the Friends at secretary.friends@gmail.com for a complete job description.

VOLUNTEER AT THE
ANNUAL WILLIAM L.
FINLEY OPEN HOUSE!
CONTACT FRIENDS
PRESIDENT DOUG
SPENCER AT
DOUG_SPENCER@Q.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Wild Goose Nature Store Product Spotlight

Goose Moon is a children's book based on Native American folklore and their tradition of assigning names to various moons annually. It is a wonderful story to share with your children or grandchildren and is beautifully illustrated.

Mention this Ad and get a 10% discount in April.



Membership Form

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Please check this box if you do NOT wish to share your information directly with the Refuge Volunteer Coordinator for additional volunteer opportunities.

I am interested in these volunteer opportunities:

- ☐ Work Parties ☐ Special Events ☐ Wild Goose Nature Store
☐ Education Programs ☐ Board Member
☐ Habitat Restoration ☐ Grounds Maintenance
☐ Other _____

Annual Membership Categories

- ☐ \$10 Senior / Student
☐ \$15 Individual
☐ \$25 Family

All contributions in excess of membership fees are tax deductible under corporation guidelines.

\$_____ Tax deductible donation

Please make checks payable to FWVNWRC.



Friends of the Willamette Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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